GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTARACT

School Education - Prosecution – Sanction under Section 199 (4) (b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for filing complaint by the Public Prosecutor in a competent court of law against the Editor and others of Eenadu Newspaper for publishing baseless allegations against Government – Accorded - Orders – Issued.

SCHOOL EDUCATION (PROG.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.119 Dated: 04.07.2023

Read the following:-

1. "విద్యాకానుక బూట్లు....కాళ్ళకు పట్టవు" caption in the headlines published on 16.04.2023 in Eenadu Telugu Daily Newspaper.
2. Govt. Lr., Dated :01.05.2023.

ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above, false news item has been published in the Eenadu News Paper, page number 3 ,Amaravathi edition with the caption "విద్యాకానుక బూట్లు ....కాళ్ళకు పట్టవు" in the headlines published on 16.04.2023, which is libelous, scandalous, untruthful, unfounded, *per se* defamatory, derogatory news. It was alleged in the said newspaper that, School Education Department Principal Secretary Shri Praveen Prakash visited Markapuram and Giddalur Mandals of Prakasam District on 15.04.2023. Praveen Prakash on his visit to Markapuram and Giddalur in Prakasam district on Saturday and to enquire the proper implementation of scheme to the beneficiaries he went to the students' homes and inspected the quality of Jagananna's vidyakanuka kits and on inspection he observed that the shoes were found to be torn and unfit size. Further, alleged the principal secretary subsequent to inspection had questioned the concerned officials with regard to poor quality of the shoes provided to the students and thereafter visited Vemulakota High School in Markapuram mandal along with

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district officials and on his inspection he noticed and questioned the few students for non-wearing of shoes and the students replied stating that the shoes that were provided to them were damaged and the principal secretary considering the grievance he along with the concerned officials visited the houses of few students. Further alleged that, firstly when he visited house of Sandeep, a student from Kottapally village he noticed that the shoes were kept in the corner and the same were picked and after examining them it was noticed that the shoes were in torn condition and unfit size and expressed his anger towards the officials for not taking proper measurements. Further alleged that, the principal secretary visited the house of K. Sivaparvathi, a student from Vemulakota after inspection the shoes given to her, it is noticed that one pair of the shoes found to be too big and the other pair is of unfit size and after considering the grievances of the students he directed the concerned officials for effective implementation of the scheme and to distribute school kits for the next academic year regularly.

2. The Government implements many schemes to provide quality education to students studying in Government schools. Among them 'Jagananna Vidyakanuka' is the main scheme. 3 pairs of uniform cloth, 1 pair of shoes, 2 pairs of socks, belt, school bag, Bilingual text books, work books, Oxford dictionary, note books were given to the students of class I to X. Some newspapers are publishing false news articles to discredit Jagananna's education scheme. After distributing the shoes, some samples were collected from the districts at the field level and sent for lab testing. All the mis-matched, worn and damaged shoes have been instructed to be replaced. As per the details given by the district officials, the shoes are more durable because they are worn every day. But some students are not wearing it due to foot injuries and lack of habit despite of the concerned school teachers insisting to wear and to present in school with a proper attire. Students wearing shoes while playing, sometimes accidentally getting their shoes wet in water especially during rainy season, walking in mud, or not knowing how to use them properly, there is a possibility that the shoes may get damaged. However, if any student's shoes are torn or damaged, they are given an opportunity to bring them to the

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notice of the principal and change them. It is directed that the damaged items should be reported to the concerned Principal and given an opportunity to be replaced. Similarly, damaged and worn shoes were replaced in the districts . RJD V.S. Subbarao said that 100 percent of the students were given suitable shoes. The reasons given by students for not coming to school in a proper attire are torn belts, worn shoes, worn socks, broken laces, lost shoes, lack of habit of wearing shoes, foot injuries. It does not make sense to discredit the ongoing Jagananna Vidya Kanuka scheme and to write perverse language about the schemes.

3. Further, the newspaper contains several false allegations and statements and is based on a wholly erroneous understanding and interpretation of the facts relating to the incident, which has caused enormous prejudice to the Government and affected and damaged the reputation and integrity in the eyes of the public. After considering the above facts, it is evident that a deliberate act to tarnish the image of the Government by publishing false news article which read as whole is per se defamatory in nature, and the same was published without factually ascertaining the truth before publishing the same.

4. Government after careful examination of the matter and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 199 (4) (b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, hereby accord sanction to the concerned Public Prosecutor to make a complaint before the competent Court against the following individuals for publishing Defamatory, Derogatory and Venomous news which is devoid of truth published in Eenadu News paper dated.16.04.2023 with the caption "విద్యాకానుక బూట్లు....కాళ్ళకు పట్టవు":

i. Ushodaya Enterprises Pvt. Ltd,
Represented by it's Managing Director
Survey No.94 B,C&D,
Nidumukkala Village, Tadikonda Mandal,
Guntur District,
Andhra Pradesh – 522 016.

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ii. Mr. Ch. Kiran,
Managing Director,
Eenadu, Road No.36,
Jubille Hills, Hyderabad.

iii. Mr. M. Nageshwara Rao
Printer & Publisher,
Eenadu Telugu Daily,
Survey No.239/3, 240/3B & 240/4,
Gudavalli Village,
Vijayawada Rural Mandal,
NTR District,
Andhra Pradesh – 521 104.

iv. Mr. M. Nageshwara Rao,
Editor, Eenadu Telugu Daily,
Survey No.239/3, 240/3B & 240/4,
Gudavalli Village,
Vijayawada Rural Mandal,
NTR District,
Andrha Pradesh – 521 104

v. The Bureau Chief,
Eenadu Telugu Daily
Survey No.239/3, 240/3B & 240/4
Gudavalli Village,
Vijayawada Rural Mandal,
NTR District,
Andrha Pradesh – 521 104

6. The concerned Public Prosecutor, shall take immediate further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PRAVEEN PRAKASH
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Public Prosecutor.

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Copy to:
The State Public Prosecutor, High Court of AP, Amaravati
The State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Patamata, Vijayawada.
The PS to Spl. Chief Secretary to C.M
The OSD to Minister for Education
The PS to CS
The PS to Prl. Secy (SE)
Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER